

The recent mandate by Sinclair Broadcasting Corporation that all of its affiliates air a politically biased program is totally wrong in a democratic republic such as the U.S. of A.

Local control and local responsiveness is necessary for media throughout the United States. Such localism is consistent with the positions we held in the Minnesota Republican Party in the late 1960's and 1970's. (Some of my civic activity included chairing the resolutions committee of the 6th Congressional District.) Today, in the 21st Century, it is all the more important that the United States stand as an exemplar of democracy. To do so, a major reversal is needed in the way that the FCC renews licenses: responsiveness to the local areas is crucial and media conglomeration needs to be reversed. If markets are primary, then ownership can even be held through "blind" corporations so that control of the news is not under the domination of any one group.

Thank you.      Richard P. Devine